REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the above-identified application be re-examined.

The June 20, 2007, Office Action rejected all the claims in this application (Claims 1-16) under 35 U.S.C. § 101 on the basis that the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Remarks accompanying this rejection state that Claims 1-8 are directed to a computer-implemented method of calculation where the inputs are numbers and the results are also numbers and that Claims 9-16 are directed to a computer program. Frankly, applicants do not understand either grounds of rejection.

Even prior to the present amendment, Claims 1-8 were not directed to a computer method of calculation where the inputs are numbers and the results are also numbers, except in a very abstract sense. More specifically, while computer instructions at the base level are in the form of binary numbers, at the functional level recited in Claims 1-8 prior to this amendment, the inputs were not numbers, nor were the output (results) numbers. Regardless, independent Claim 1, the only independent claim of this group of claims, has been amended to recite a method of allowing users of a computer-implemented application program running on a data processing system to manage add-ons associated with the application program. The method goes on to recite a series of actions that clearly are not numerical inputs or numerical results. Clearly, Claim 1 and dependent claims 2-8 recite concrete tangible results. As a result, applicants respectfully submit that this ground of rejection has been rendered moot.

With respect to the rejection of Claims 9-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 101, the claims have been amended to clearly recite that they are directed to a computer-readable storage medium containing computer-executable instructions that, when executed in a data processing device, allow the users of an application program to manage add-ons associated with the application program. The add-ons are defined as comprising small software programs pluggable into the application program for adding functionality to the application program. Applicants respectfully

submit that this subject matter is clearly not rejectable under 35 U.S.C. § 101. As a result, applicants respectfully submit that this ground of rejection has also been rendered moot.

The Office Action also rejected Claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0196279 (Bloomfield et al.). While applicants do not fully understand this ground of rejection since Bloomfield et al. is not directed to methods or computer-readable media that allow users of a computer-implemented application program running on a data processing system to manage add-ons associated with the program, in order to advance the prosecution of this application independent Claims 1 and 9 have been amended so as to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the recited subject matter.

Prior to discussing in detail why applicants believe all of the claims in this application are allowable over the cited and applied reference, a brief description of the disclosed subject matter and a brief description of the teaching of the cited and applied reference (Bloomfield et al.) are provided. The following discussion of the disclosed subject matter and the cited and applied reference are not provided to define the scope or interpretation of any of the claims of this application. Instead, these discussions are provided to help the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office better appreciate important claim distinctions discussed thereafter.

Disclosed Subject Matter

A method of allowing users of a computer-implemented application program running on a data processing system to manage add-ons associated with the application program is disclosed. As noted in the specification, add-ons comprise small software programs pluggable into an application program for adding functionality to the application program. The method comprises generating a user interface that identifies add-ons associated with the application program in response to user input for managing the enable/disable state of the add-ons. In response to user input, the enable/disable state of the add-ons is managed by determining if the user has selected a list of add-ons. If the user has selected a list of add-ons, the method

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS PLLC
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100

comprises determining if the user has selected a particular add-on from the list. If the user has selected a particular add-on from the list, the method includes determining if the user has chosen to disable or enable the particular add-on. If the user has chosen to disable the particular add-on, the add-on is disabled. If the user has chosen to enable the add-on, the add-on is enabled. Also disclosed is computer-readable storage media containing computer-executable instructions that, when executed in a data processing device, allow the users of an application program to manage add-ons associated with the application program in accordance with the foregoing method.

U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0196279 (Bloomfield et al.)

Bloomfield et al. is directed to interacting with software applications displayed in a Web page. Bloomfield et al. has nothing whatsoever to do with add-ons, as far as applicants have been able to determine. In this regard, language referenced in the Office Action clearly is not directed to add-ons. More specifically, Bloomfield et al. discloses enabling the display of application-output data within application-output windows embedded in a Web browser window. The application-output windows can be dynamically moved, resized, and otherwise manipulated within the Web browser window even when the application program providing the source of the application-output data is non-Web enabled. Bloomfield et al. receives window attribute information associated with the application-output windows via a first virtual channel and displays application-output data received by a second virtual channel within the application-output windows, which are formed and/or modified using the window attribute information. As noted above, Bloomfield et al. is not directed to and does not relate to computer program add-ons, i.e., small software programs pluggable into an application program for adding functionality to the application program. Bloomfield et al. does not disclose generating a user interface that identifies add-ons associated with an application program and responds to user input for managing the enable/disable state of the add-ons. Nor does Bloomfield et al. disclose,

LAW OFFICES OF
CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR JOHNSON KINDNESS PLLC
1420 Fifth Avenue
Suite 2800
Seattle, Washington 98101
206.682.8100

in response to user input managing the enable/disable state of add-ons in the manner briefly described above.

Argument

As amended, independent Claims 1 and 9 read as follows:

> 1. A method of allowing users of a computer-implemented application program running on a data processing system to manage add-ons associated with the application program, comprising:
>
> (a) generating a user interface **that identifies add-ons associated with an application program** and responds to user input for managing the enable/disable state of said add-ons, **the add-ons comprising small software programs pluggable into the application program for adding functionality to the application program**; and
>
> (b) **in response to user input, managing the enable/disable state of said add-ons by:**
>
> **(i) determining if the user has selected a list of add-ons;**
>
> **(ii) if the user has selected a list of add-ons, determining if the user has selected a particular add-on from the list;**
>
> **(iii) if the user has selected a particular add-on from the list, determining if the user has chosen to disable or enable the particular add-on;**
>
> **(iv) if the user has chosen to disable the particular add-on, disabling the add-on; and**
>
> **(v) if the user has chosen to enable the add-on, enabling the add-on.** (Emphasis added.)
>
> 9. A computer-readable storage medium containing computer-executable instructions that, when executed in a data processing device, allow the users of an application program to **manage add-ons associated with the application program, the add-ons comprising generating a user interface that identifies add-ons associated with the application program, and responding to user input for managing the enable/disable state of said add-ons**, the computer-executable instructions including instructions that cause said data processing device to:

(a) generate a user interface that identifies add-ons associated with the application program and responds to user input for managing the enable/disable state of said add-ons; and

(b) **in response to user input, manages the enable/disable state of said add-ons by:**

(i) determining if the user has selected a list of add-ons;

(ii) if the user has selected a list of add-ons, determining if the user has selected a particular add-on from the list;

(iii) if the user has selected a particular add-on from the list, determining if the user has chosen to disable or enable the particular add-on;

(iv) if the user has chosen to disable the particular add-on, disabling the add-on; and

(v) if the user has chosen to enable the add-on, enabling the add-on. (Emphasis added.)

As discussed above, Bloomfield et al. clearly does not disclose or suggest the highlighted portions of Claims 1 and 9. As a result, applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1 and 9 and all of the claims dependent therefrom (Claims 2-8 and 10-16, respectively) are clearly allowable. Consequently, early and favorable action allowing these claims and passing this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTENSEN O'CONNOR
JOHNSON KINDNESS^{PLLC}

Gary S. Kindness
Registration No. 22,178
Direct Dial No. 206.695.1702

GSK:aew